[26th August 1955

* 2311 *Q.*—Sri P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of deaths due to dysentery in Nattika firka, Malabar, during the month of April, May and June of 1955;

(*b*) the number of attacks during the same period; and

(*c*) the remedial measures taken by the Government?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The figures are :—

Month.	Attacks.	Deaths.
April	1,030	10
May	2,7[illegible]6	74
June	1,954	16

" (*c*) The measures taken by the Government in the matter were the posting of additional Public Health staff, diversion of motor vehicles for the quick movement of staff and equipment, distribution of sulphaguanidine, formo cibasol, ferrous sulphate and multi-vitamin tablets and milk powder, chlorination of water sources, spraying of D.D.T. and the deputation of a mobile medical unit for affording medical relief."

Sri P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" May I know whether the Government have investigated into the reasons for such widespread prevalence of dysentery in the Nattika firka and whether they have come to the conclusion that it was due to contamination of water sources? If so, what action has been taken by the Government to see that protected water is supplied to the people? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" Dysentery and diarrhœa have become a part of the lives of our people due to the unhealthy conditions of living. The outbreak of bacillary dysentery in this firka may be said to be due to unfavourable seasonal conditions, scanty water-supply, dietetic errors, contamination of drinking-water sources and undernourished conditions of the poor classes especially of children. As regards water-supply, I may say that the Collector of Malabar has under consideration the question of providing protected water-supply in the area under the Rural Water-supply Scheme."

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Is it not a fact that there was complete neglect at the initial stage of the infection, that the Government thought of relief measures when the situation had grown very serious and that had the Government taken proper measures at the appropriate time, the casualities would have been very much reduced? "

26th August 1955]

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" That is the kind of allegation which the hon. Member is used to make. It is not a fact. As soon as the appearance of the epidemic was known, prompt measures were taken by the Public Health staff, by the Collector and by the District Board."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know whether the Collector of Malabar has recommended to the Government to introduce filter point tube wells in the Nattika firka so as to prevent contamination of drinking-water and whether the Government have accepted that proposal? Or, what is their proposal in this matter? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have already said that the Collector has under consideration the question of providing protected water-supply to this area."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" We make such allegation usually because usually the Government behave in that way. In this case, it was only when the complaint was made at the highest level, that is, to the Director of Public Health, that he visited the locality and relief measures were organized. Can the Hon. Minister say that proper and, if so, what steps were taken before then? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have already said that prompt measures are being taken as soon as the outbreak of the epidemic is reported."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" As this kind of epidemic has become an annual feature in that area and in various other pockets in the whole of Malabar, would a special Committee be appointed to inquire into this matter so that suitable, sound and scientific measures of a lasting nature may be taken by the Government to prevent a recurrence of this kind of epidemic? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Diarrhoea and dysentery we find in many places, but the Malabar Members are more vocal and so, it is brought to the notice of the Government."

Availability of precious stones near Tirupur

* 2312 *Q.*—SRI S. R. ARUMUGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state— 9-20 a.m.

(*a*) whether the Government have examined the precious stones seized from the Harijans of Perunthuluvu village near Tirupur about a year and a half ago;

(*b*) if so, the quality and value of stones; and

(*c*) whether the Government have conducted any survey for starting a pilot scheme to exploit the precious stones available there?